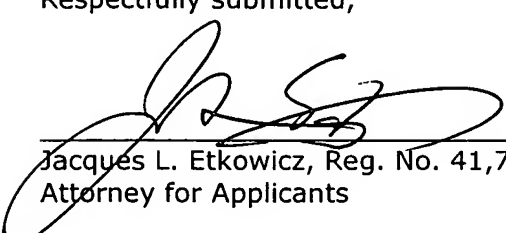


Remarks/Arguments:

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested prior to examination of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



Jacques L. Etkowicz, Reg. No. 41,738
Attorney for Applicants

JLE/mc

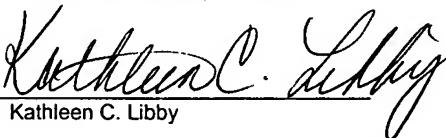
Dated: February 17, 2004

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby
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Kathleen C. Libby